Create virtual machine scale set

You can deploy a scale set with a Windows Server image or Linux image such as RHEL, CentOS, Ubuntu, or SLES.

1. Click **Create a resource** in the upper left-hand corner of the Azure portal.
2. Search for *scale set*, choose **Virtual machine scale set**, then select **Create**.
3. Enter a name for the scale set, such as *myScaleSet*.
4. Select your desired OS type, such as *Windows Server 2016 Datacenter*.
5. Enter your desired resource group name, such as *myResourceGroup*, and location, such as *East US*.
6. Enter your desired username, and select which authentication type you prefer.
   * A **Password** must be at least 12 characters long and meet three out of the four following complexity requirements: one lower case character, one upper case character, one number, and one special character. For more information, see [username and password requirements](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/virtual-machines/windows/faq#what-are-the-username-requirements-when-creating-a-vm).
   * If you select a Linux OS disk image, you can instead choose **SSH public key**. Only provide your public key, such as *~/.ssh/id\_rsa.pub*. You can use the Azure Cloud Shell from the portal to [create and use SSH keys](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/virtual-machines/linux/mac-create-ssh-keys).
7. Enter a **Public IP address name**, such as *myPublicIP*.
8. Enter a unique **Domain name label**, such as *myuniquedns*. This DNS label forms the base of the FQDN for the load balancer in front of the scale set.
9. To confirm the scale set options, select **Create**.

Connect to a VM in the scale set

When you create a scale set in the portal, a load balancer is created. Network Address Translation (NAT) rules are used to distribute traffic to the scale set instances for remote connectivity such as RDP or SSH.

To view these NAT rules and connection information for your scale set instances:

1. Select the resource group you created in the previous step, such as *myResourceGroup*.
2. From the list of resources, select your **Load balancer**, such as *myScaleSetLab*.
3. Choose **Inbound NAT rules** from the menu on the left-hand side of the window.

You can connect to each VM in the scale set using these NAT rules. Each VM instance lists a destination IP address and TCP port value. For example, if the destination IP address is *104.42.1.19* and the TCP port is *50001*, you connect to the VM instance as follows:

* For a Windows scale set, connect to the VM instance with RDP on 104.42.1.19:50001
* For a Linux scale set, connect to the VM instance with SSH on ssh azureuser@104.42.1.19 -p 50001

When prompted, enter the credentials you specified from the previous step when you created the scale set. The scale set instances are regular VMs that you can interact with as normal. For more information on how to deploy and run applications on your scale set instances, see [Deploy your application on virtual machine scale sets](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/virtual-machine-scale-sets/virtual-machine-scale-sets-deploy-app)